

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 14 and 18-21 are pending in the application, with claim 14 being the sole independent claim. Claim 14 has been amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objections to the Claims

The examiner has pointed out the presence of typographical errors in claims 10 and 11. Claims 10 and 11 have been canceled rendering this objection moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 14, 18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2002/0144284 (Burroughs *et al.*), hereinafter referred to as Burroughs. Claims 6, 15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burroughs in view of International Publication WO 01/17167 (Hebsgaard *et al.*), hereinafter referred to as Hebsgaard. Claims 1-13 have been canceled rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of amended independent claim 14 and dependent claims 18-21.

Applicants have amended independent claim 14 to recite a media access controller that includes "a filter for receiving a bandwidth allocation message from a first

communication device or a second communication device, wherein said filter processes authorization instructions to authenticate said bandwidth allocation message, wherein said filter includes a primary filter for receiving a bandwidth allocation message produced by the first communications device; and a secondary filter for receiving a bandwidth allocation message from the second communications device, wherein the second communications device is linked to the first communications device over a slave interface." The cited art of Burroughs and/or Hebsgaard fail to teach or suggest these claims elements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 14 and 18-21 be passed to allowance.

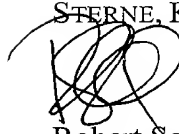
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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